

REMARKS

The Office Action dated June 15, 2004 has been carefully considered. The present Amendment is intended to be a complete response and to place the case in condition for allowance.

In the Action, the Examiner rejected claim 15 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Armstrong et al. (USP 5,697,280) and Clark (USP 4,179,967). Claim 15 is also rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious over Clark ('967) or Armstrong et al. ('280). Claim 17 is rejected under 35 USC § 103(b) as being obvious over either of Clark '967 or Armstrong et al. '280. Claims 18-20 are withdrawn as being directed to a nonelected species.

Claims 15 and 17 are amended to include certain element numbers solely for the purpose of clarity to the Examiner. The two round portions (R,R) are shown in Fig. 1B. The element numbers are not to be deemed a narrowing amendment of the claims. Claim 15 is also amended to recite "at least one unset tooth (25) which is located prior to the first left set tooth (27) so that the unset tooth (25) cuts the workpiece prior to that the first left set tooth (27) cuts the workpiece when the band saw blade is moved in the moving direction (V)." Claim 15 is further amended to recite "wherein the pitch (P8) in the moving direction (V) between the unset tooth (25) and the first left set tooth (27) is larger than the other pitch (P7) in the moving direction (V) between the first left set tooth (27) and the second right set tooth (29) and larger than the other pitch (P6) in the moving direction (V) between the second right set tooth (29) and the third left set tooth (31)."

The amendment to the second wherein clause "wherein the pitch (P8) in the moving direction . . ." sets forth a pitch recitation which is not found or suggested in any of the applied references. Hence, as now claimed, claims 15 and 17 patentably distinguish over the

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applied references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the prior art rejections are respectfully requested.

As all grounds of rejection have been addressed and overcome, entry of this Amendment and issuance of a Notice of Allowance of the pending claims, as now presented, are respectfully solicited.

In the event that there are any questions relating to this Amendment or to the application in general, it would be appreciated if the examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney concerning such questions so that the prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Please charge any shortage or credit any overpayment of fees to BLANK ROME LLP, Deposit Account No. 23-2185 (000004-00634). In the event that a petition for an extension of time is required to be submitted herewith and in the event that a separate petition does not accompany this response, Applicants hereby petition under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) for an extension of time for as many months as are required to render this submission timely.

Any fees due are authorized above.

Respectfully submitted,

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